

Name_____

Date_____

Block_____

Course: Advanced Theatre - Acting

Teacher: Mr. Butcher

Email: mbutcher@spsmail.org

Textbooks: *Training of the American Actor and Theatre Alive!*

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Advanced Theatre - Acting (II & III) is an advanced study of drama where students will participate in the areas of acting, interpretation, directing, scene design, light design, and make-up design. Students will be involved in the production of a straight play, and competition one-act and/or Reader's Theatre. The class is production oriented. Third year drama students are expected to take on a leadership role and have added responsibilities in addition to the public performance activities.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course, the student will:

- *Develop and apply skills to communicate ideas through theatrical performances.
- *Select and apply theatrical elements to communicate ideas through the creation of theatre.
- *Develop and apply skills to explain perceptions about and evaluations of theatre and theatrical performance.
- *Develop and apply skills necessary to make connections between theatre and other non-arts disciplines.
- *Develop and apply skills necessary to understand cultural diversity and heritage as they relate to theatre.

COURSE OVERVIEW

The following tasks and materials will be covered with allowances made for the factor of time:

I. Play Production

- A. Make-up
- B. Costume
- C. Construction
- D. Lighting
- E. Sound
- F. Personnel

II. Play Analysis

- A. Dramatic criticism
- B. Theatre criteria
- C. Plot, structure, theme, and mood
- D. Play attendance
- E. Play reading and presentation

III. Character Analysis

- A. Comic
- B. Tragic
- C. Qualities of character
- D. Artistic selectivity

GRADING

Students are expected to use complete sentences, proper grammar, and correct spelling in every written performance.

The following percentages will be used to determine a student's grade:

| | | | |
|----|--------|----|-------|
| A | 93-100 | C | 73-76 |
| A- | 90-92 | C- | 70-72 |
| B+ | 87-89 | D+ | 67-69 |
| B | 83-86 | D | 63-66 |
| B- | 80-82 | D- | 60-62 |
| C+ | 77-79 | F | 0-59 |

If a student fails to complete a task or fulfill responsibilities satisfactorily and on time, the assigned point values will be lost.

If a student cannot be at an assigned rehearsal or performance event the student will not earn those points regardless of the reason for the absence. If the absence is an excused illness, the student may do alternate assignments to make up the points lost. If the absence is due to another school related activity that is tied to points in another class and the other activity was planned prior to our scheduled rehearsals or performances, the student may do alternate assignments to make up the points lost. If the absence is due to another school related, elective activity, the student may **not** do an alternate assignment.

Quality and effort will be significant contributors for establishing whether a student has fulfilled his/her responsibilities to the fullest. When a student is absent from class for any reason other than a school related activity, he/she will lose 20 points. When a student is off task or being disruptive during class, up to 20 points will be deducted off of their daily participation grade. When a student is late for class, 10 points will be deducted off of their daily participation grade.

MID-QUARTER GRADE CHECKS

(Note to Parents/guardians - Please ask your student for these.)

Grade checks will be sent home approximately every third week of each quarter to inform parents/guardians of their student's progress. Students and their parents/guardians should review and sign the grade check. Each student is responsible for returning the signed grade check to class.

Students in Theatre Arts III/IV Acting are required to participate in the **Performance Night – February 18, 2009 SPS Theatre Festival – February 27, State Districts – March 5 (possibly State – in April), Spring Play Rehearsals for their own performances (will be announced at a later time), Spring Play Performance May 4, Spring Play Performances May 6-8, and Spring Play Performances, May 13-15**. Because of the performances, there will be some required student attendance after school or on weekends. If a student is unable to fulfill his/her responsibilities in these areas, the student is encouraged to drop this course.

Students are required to work a minimum of 20 hours outside of class time on production work each quarter, 10 of which must be done at school. Time can be spent after school working on sets and/or working on individual performances. Additional hours beyond the required 20 hours will count as extra credit. Additional hours will result in extra-credit (10 points an hour).

Students must attend two Cappies productions during the semester and submit a written critique on the technical and performance aspects of each production that they attend, and they must submit each play's program or ticket stub. Only Cappies productions will meet this requirement. Failure to attend these performances will result in the loss of 200 points each. Possible performances to attend are:

TBA
TBA
TBA
TBA
TBA

Cappies is a program through which high school theater students are trained as critics, attend shows at other schools, write reviews, and publish those reviews in the local newspaper. At the end of the year, the student critics vote for awards, that are presented at a formal Cappies Gala. In July and August, many of the top award honorees from around the U.S. are invited to participate in the Cappies National Theater, where they perform shows at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

ASSIGNMENTS AND PROJECTS

I will make the final decision as to what we will be performing, who will be performing what roles, and who will fulfill specific responsibilities. This whole process is competitive as is the real world and the world of theater. Auditions may be done to determine who is best for a part. I will do my best to cast the best people for each position throughout the course. To some extent, everyone will be involved in all productions and the drama festival, but the level and type of involvement will vary. Not everyone will be cast in every production; some will serve as production staff only. If this type of management is upsetting to you, you should look into another class.

We will produce a full-length play through the weekends of 5/4, 6-8 and 13-15. Everyone in the class must be at every assigned performance and the final dress rehearsals.

The following is the specific breakdown of assignments and point values:

3rd Quarter, 2008

Students will complete the following objectives on an independent study basis in order to compile total points.

| <u>Activity</u> | <u>Points</u> |
|---|---|
| <u>1. Participation/Attendance/Rehearsal</u> | /860points (Approximately) |
| The student will attend class both regularly and punctually, coming prepared with needed materials. The student will actively and willingly participate in lecture/discussions and critique sessions in a positive and productive manner. The student will apply himself/herself during in-class activities, study sessions, rehearsals, etc. | |
| <u>2. Performance</u> | <u>Due: Beginning 1/29</u> /400 points |
| The student will perform two monologues. | |
| <u>3. Working Script with Analysis</u> | <u>Due: 3/12</u> /400 points |
| At the time of performance, the student will turn in his/her paperwork. The following must be included in this order: | |
| a. Working Script | 25 points |
| b. Clean Script | 25 points |
| c. Character Analysis | 25 points |
| d. Script Worksheet | 25 points |

- 4. Play Attendance/Critique** **Due: 5/21** **/400 points**
 The student will attend two Cappies' productions during the semester. Proof of attendance will be evidenced by ticket stub or program. A written critique of the play is also required.
- 5. Twenty Work Hours** **Due: 3/12** **/200 points**
 Every student must put in 20 hours outside of class time 3rd quarter.
- 6. Performance Night** **Due: 2/18** **/200 points**
 Every student must participate and be in attendance at performance night.
- 7. Drama Festival** **Due: 2/27** **/200 points**
 Every student must participate and be in attendance at the drama festival. Those not cast in a one-act or readers will assume a technical position.
- 8. State Districts** **Due: 3/5** **/200 points**
 Every student must attend the district event at the designated dates and times.
- 9. Resume'** **Due: 3/12** **/100 points**
 Every student must have an acting resume'.
- 10. Acting method assignment** **Due: 3/12** **/200 points**
- 11. 3rd Quarter Production Duties Form** **Due: 3/12** **/100 points**
- 12. Acting Portfolio** **Due: 3/12** **/200 points**
 Including all of the assigned paperwork and critiques.

4th Quarter, 2008

Students will complete the following objectives on an independent study basis in order to compile total points.

| <u>Activity</u> | <u>Points</u> |
|---|--|
| <u>1. Participation/Attendance/Rehearsal</u> | /920 points (Approximately) |
| The student will attend class both regularly and punctually, coming prepared with needed materials. The student will actively and willingly participate in lecture/discussions and critique sessions in a positive and productive manner. The student will apply himself/herself during in-class activities, study sessions, rehearsals, etc. | |
| <u>3. Character Analysis</u> | <u>Due: 5/21</u> /200 points |
| At the time of performance, the student will turn in his/her character analysis for each role they assume, or a position description form. | |
| <u>4. Play Attendance/Critique</u> | <u>Due: 5/21</u> /400 points |
| The student will attend two Cappies' productions during the semester. Proof of attendance will be evidenced by ticket stub or program. A written critique of the play is also required. | |
| <u>5. Play Reading/Summary</u> | <u>Due: 5/21</u> /200 points |
| The student will read a play of his/her choice from <i>Theatre Alive!</i> Or <i>Drama: A Pocket Anthology</i> and write a play summary. Please use the form provided. | |
| <u>6. Twenty Work Hours</u> | <u>Due: 5/21</u> /200 points |
| Every student must put in 20 hours outside of class time 4 th quarter. | |
| <u>7. Spring Production</u> | <u>Due: 5/4, 6-8. 13-15</u> /1400 points |
| Every student must participate and be in attendance at assigned performances | |

8. Resume' **Due: 5/21** /100 points
Every student must have an acting resume.

10. Article on acting assignment **Due: 5/21** /200 points

11. 4th Quarter Production Duties Form **Due: 5/21** /100 points

12. Acting Portfolio **Due: 5/21** /200 points
Everything from 4th quarter and 3rd quarter.

13. Final Exam /1000 points

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Homework - The student should expect to have activity homework from this class in addition to production work, and rehearsals.

Final - The final will be a significant part of the student's grade. The final will be at least 10% and no more than 25% of the student's grade. The final will be given during the final exam time at the end of the course in accordance with the school district policy.

Late Work - Late work is not acceptable. We will function as a real production team with real deadlines. In the case of an excused absence, alternative assignments will be given that can be done on the student's own time.

In addition the following stipulations are made and every student is expected to abide by them:

1. Students are expected to treat other students and the teacher with respect.
2. The student is expected to be in his/her seat when the bell rings.
3. Students should not use profanity, obscene language, or obscene gestures.
4. Students are not to make remarks deemed suggestive or crude by the teacher.
5. Make-up Work - Students are responsible for obtaining and completing make-up work. Assignments given to the student prior to their absence must be turned in or completed the DAY THE STUDENT RETURNS TO CLASS.
6. Students may have snacks and beverages that have been purchased from the machines at Kickapoo. However, to maintain this opportunity, students must properly and courteously clean up all trash, soda cans, and wrappers. Students who make messes or who cause classroom disruptions with snacks or beverages (i.e. passing drinks or snacks around to others, loudly crumpling a soda can or tossing trash during class) will lose the privilege to have snacks or beverages during class.
7. Students are not to bring food or drinks into the auditorium.
8. Passes are a disruption to the learning process. A pass must be obtained from the teacher if the student needs to leave the classroom for any reason. The teacher will determine if the reason is valid. The teacher will also determine if a student leaves class when requested by a pass from the office or another teacher. **Students should never use the bathrooms in the locker rooms during this class. A**

student caught in a locker room while in my class will be referred to an assistant principal.

Electronic Devices

The rules in all Springfield Public Schools regarding electronic devices read as follows:

"The possession of laser pointers and other unsafe electronic items are prohibited in the school building. All other electronic devices, such as, but not limited to, cell phones, pagers, PDA's, head phones, IPODs/MP3 players may be in the student's possession as long as they are not disruptive of the educational process or in violation of site use procedures. The school district will not be responsible for lost or stolen items."

Cellular Phones

Students are not allowed to use or display cell phones during the class time. If they choose to disregard this rule, they will be disciplined according to site scope and sequence.

If a parent has a need to reach a student during the school day, he or she should call the office and we will make every attempt to deliver the message. If parents have a need to call on a student's cell phone to leave a message during the day they are free to do so. However, students cannot check for messages during class time.

If a student is in class or in the hallway during class time and remembers that the cell phone is turned on, the student should approach the teacher and ask permission from the teacher to turn it off.

Providing the student has followed the appropriate procedure, the teacher should allow the student to turn off the phone without penalty.

If a student forgets to turn off a cell phone and it rings or vibrates during class, the student should ask the teacher's permission to turn it off. The student may also be subject to the teacher's classroom discipline procedures.

ACADEMIC HONESTY STATEMENT

Academic honesty is expected in all classes at KHS. Cheating will not be tolerated. Violations of academic honesty include, but are not limited to, copying, allowing someone to copy your paper, using cheat sheets, using technology to transmit or receive information with the intent to commit academic dishonesty, not grading correctly, plagiarizing, and self plagiarizing. Plagiarism is the theft of ideas, writings, or words of another person and passing this information off as one's own. Self plagiarism is completing an original paper for one class assignment, then turning in that same paper to another teacher for another class assignment without permission. Papers may be checked by the teacher using plagiarism detection software. Any student cheating will be subject to academic and/or disciplinary penalties. Consequences may include: reduction in grade on assignment, repeat assignment, no grade (zero) on assignment or others as deemed appropriate. Academic dishonesty will be reported to a school counselor and a parent will be notified.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

1. Truancy - an elective absence which was not approved in advance by parents or by school officials. Work missed because of a truancy may be completed for credit. Truancy is a violation of state statutes as well as school regulations and may result in suspension or other disciplinary action.

2. Suspension - an absence required by school authorities as disciplinary action for inappropriate student behavior. Work missed because of a suspension may be completed for credit. Students will not be excluded from final examinations because of suspensions. Special arrangements may be necessary.

3. School Activities - students represent their schools in a variety of athletic and academic activities. When a student serves as an authorized representative of his/her school, the student is not considered absent. Students who choose to participate in extra-curricular activities resulting in classes missed are to make up all assignments missed.
4. All other absences - all absences, including those approved in advance by parents or school officials, except those for school sponsored activities, will count against a student's days absent. The student should be careful in the use of absences because excessive absences may affect a student's class participation grade.
5. Make-up Work - Students are responsible for obtaining and completing make-up work. Work missed must be made up the DAY THE STUDENT RETURNS TO CLASS.
6. Class Participation - the semester grade in this class is greatly determined by class participation. Class participation in Drama II includes such factors as attendance, punctuality, student preparation and contributions to the class learning environment and a cooperative attitude. There are some assignments that cannot be made up as they are performance oriented, or are assigned and completed within one class period of time. Students who miss such assignments will need to investigate possible extra credit to fill in those points missed.

TARDY POLICY

I expect students to be in their seats and prepared to work before the final bell rings. Students should not be out of their seat and talking to other classmates after the final bell rings. The tardy policy for this class is the same as the school-wide policy. **This policy will be strictly enforced.**

Definition of Tardy: A student is tardy to class if the student is not in the classroom at the conclusion of the tardy bells.

Tardies will be for the duration of the quarter and will start over each quarter in all classes.

Students should find their seats at the conclusion of the tardy bell and remain in their seats during the taking of attendance. If a student is out of his or her assigned seat during attendance or if the student is tardy to class, he or she will lose half of their daily participation points (10 points).

ATTENDANCE INCENTIVES

100% Attendance – If a student has 100% attendance in a class for the entire term, 20% will be added to his/her final exam grade

96% Attendance – If a student has 96% attendance in a class for the entire term, 15% will be added to his/her final exam grade

92% Attendance – If a student has 92% attendance in a class for the entire term, 10% will be added to his/her final exam grade.

Eighth semester seniors may opt out of any final if they have an "A" in the course prior to the final examinations.

INTERNATIONAL THESPIANS

International Thespians is an honorary group of students who have exemplified themselves to be worthy of the title of THESPIAN. Students chosen to be Thespians are the leaders of the department and help administer the theatre season. Students gain entrance to this international society through work on productions and by competition in acting festivals. Students must be members of DRAMA CLUB and /or should be enrolled in DRAMA CLUB. After a student has acquired 10 points through 100 hours of excellent work, the student will be invited for initiateship. After the student works through the initiation process, then Thespian status is awarded at the end of the year. Thespians have a variety of social and theatre activities apart from those offered by the Drama Club.

KHS THEATRE

KHS Theatre holds auditions for all mainstage productions open to any student of Kickapoo High School. Membership in Drama Club or enrollment in a drama class is not required for the fall musical. Students who are Drama Club members and/or drama class members will have first priority on any production staff position available throughout the year.

SEALS OF EXCELLENCE

Seals of Excellence are awarded to those Seniors who meet the following criteria:

1. have a 4.0 grade point average in drama
2. have completed at least Drama I and II
3. have participated in at least 3 theatre productions
4. is a member in good standing in Thespians

VIDEOS

It is Board Policy that “instructional materials are to enrich and support the curriculum.”

The policy further states:

“If a video with a rating of PG or PG-13 is used, parents will be notified and asked to provide permission in order for their child to view the video.”

With this in mind I am providing you with a list of videos that I may use in Drama.

I assure you that any of these videos that I use are in support of the course’s curriculum.

The Actor’s Studio

Camelot

Cats

The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)

Cyran De Bergerac

Death of a Salesman

The Good Doctor

Hamlet

Into the Woods

Jekyll & Hyde

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

Kiss Me, Kate

Man of La Mancha

The Man Who Came to Dinner

Much Ado About Nothing

Oklahoma!

Our Town

Pippin

The Pirates of Penzance

Sunday in the Park with George

Sweeney Todd (Stage Version)

Taming of the Shrew

Victor Victoria

Whose Line is it Anyway

Student's Name _____
(Please Print)

AGREEMENT OF TERMS OF SYLLABUS

I have read and understood the policies and principles set forth in the attached syllabus for the **ADVANCED THEATRE - ACTING** class. I agree to follow the directions set forth as they guide my participation in this class.

Student's Signature

Parent's Signature

Date _____

Date _____

To better facilitate communication between us, could you please supply me with the following information:

Your Name(s)

Relationship to Student

Address

Home Phone

Work Phone

Cell Phone

E-mail

VIDEO PERMISSION

I give my child permission to view any of the videos listed in Mr. Butcher's class syllabus.

____ Yes ____ No